

The Friends School  
Rancocas, Burlington County, New Jersey

HABS-NJ-250

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PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Seymour Williams, A.I.A., District Officer  
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

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The Friends School  
Rancocas, Burlington County, New Jersey

Owner: Society of Friends

Date of Erection: About 1823

Architect:

Builder:

Present Condition: Good

Number of Stories: One

Materials of Construction: Foundation - stone

Exterior walls - brick

Interior walls - plaster  
on brick

Inside brick chimneys

Roof - pitch, tin

Historical Data:

In 1803 Rancocas received information that the monthly meeting intended to cast the burden of schools on the lower meetings and that a report must be sent in giving an account of the state of school. This was the beginning of the school at Rancocas. Six years later steps were taken for more permanent accommodations for the school master than

had been available. In 1809 the trustees were instructed to complete the purchase of a lot, and in 1810 they planned for a house. Further, a barn for the teachers was proposed in 1817.

In 1820 the school benefitted by two bequests - one from Howard Buzby and another from George Dilwyn.

It became necessary in 1822 to erect a new house. According to the report made, the house in which the school was held was so old and out of repair that it wasn't suitable for the services of a school any longer. It was suggested to the preparatory meeting that the trustees be authorized to build a new house on the lot where the condemned structure stood. This proposal was approved at the meeting and in 1823 it was reported that a school house had been erected agreeable to the direction of the preparatory meeting. At the same time it was reported that the whole expense was \$557.59 and that the fund including the price obtained for the old school house amounted to \$559.23 leaving the balance in favor of the school fund of \$1.64.

#### Bibliography:

Records searched by F.A. Eckhart

Woody, Thomas Quaker Education in the Colony and State of New Jersey Philadelphia, The Author, 1923

Walter E. Ritt  
Supervising Historian

Approved:

Seymour Williams  
SEYMOUR WILLIAMS, A.I.A.  
District Officer

Rev. Jan. 25.37 - T.W.